

Choosing the Right Embosser

There are many models and sizes of embossers. There are different sizes of embossers, different sized dies, different throats, and different hands.

Size of frame and reach:

The reach is the maximum distance from the center of the image to the edge of the paper. The longer the reach the longer the frame the dies are in. This means also a longer handle which gives more leverage.

1) The Pocket Seal is the smallest size and least expensive . The ones with 1 5/8 inch dies can fit in an embosser carrying case. (SEAL CASE)



2) The standard desk seal has a 2 inch reach.



3) The long reach had a 2 1/2 inch reach.



4) The Extended Long Reach has a 4 1/2 inch reach.



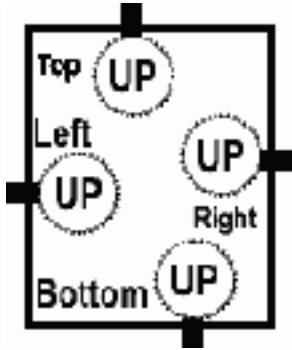
5) The 123 Cast Iron seal has a wide throat that allows the paper to roll and allow much deeper reach than other similar seals.



6) Electric power seals will emboss at the touch of a button and not require strength to operate. They are very expensive.

Hand of the embosser:

The hand of the embosser is the direction that the embosser is to enter the document. A bottom reach embosser is designed to enter the certificate from the bottom. The hand is named after the direction the embosser comes from for the image to appear right side up. If a bottom reach embosser is applied from the top the image will be upside down. The hand of the embosser is set at the factory and is not field changeable. It becomes irrelevant if the image is not pressed onto the document directly, but is pressed on a self adhesive wafer. The embossed foil wafer is peeled off the paper backing and is applied to the document. Care must be taken that the wafer is properly oriented before applying to the document.



Die Size:

Dies are available in 1 x2 inch, 1 5/8 inch , 1 3/4 inch and 2 inch. Dies are mounted in a die holder, on all but the 123 cast iron model. Except for the 123 the dies can be squeezed together and pulled out of the machine allowing another set of dies mounted in a die holder to be inserted. This allows one from to use different dies.

Depth of embossing:

The embosser works well on foil wafers. The foil is more elastic than paper so it does not suffer micro fractures in the embossing process. Paper is not as elastic and small fractures can be seen in the embossed image. Embossers work well with 20 to a maximum of 28 pound text paper. It does not work well with thicker papers. If you intend to emboss thicker paper you should submit a sample for the factory to test. If you intend to use thicker papers you should give the poundage of the text at the time of order. It is necessary to cut the negative die deeper and wider to allow for the thicker paper. An embosser has a positive die (the raised die on the bottom) that presses the paper into the negative die (top die which has the image cut away) The paper is caught between them and pressed into the top recesses by the raised image on the bottom die. The top die has to be deeper and wider cut than the raised die on the bottom. This need to allow for the thickness of the paper.

The Foil size:

When the die size is chosen then the proper foil wafer size can be determined. A Foil is measured point to point thru the center diameter. If a 2 inch die were to be used on a 2 inch foil, then part of the image will appear on the points and be illegible. A 2 1/4 inch foil should be used with a two inch die. There are fewer 2 1/4 inch foils available so there is only gold and silver foils available in shiny or dull. A 1 3/4 inch die print well on a 2 inch foil and 1 5/8 die fits with some room to spare. 2 inch foils are available in bright and dull gold and silver. They are also available in shiny bronze, Red, Blue, and Green.

Text and Graphics:

A text only graphic is cheaper than an embosser or spare dies that utilize a custom graphic. A text only graphic can include any of the manufacturers stock image centers. Custom graphics use images you supply. The images should be eps or tiff at 600 dpi at the finished size. They must be black and white only (No grays or colors) This is known as line art. Most commonly the cent is either a stock graphic or custom graphic. Text can be placed between the center and the points in a circular pattern. Continuous text starts near the bottom (about 7:00 position) and runs clockwise to about 5:00. The start and stop point are adjusted for the length of the text. A bold type like **Arial black** is used to avoid the loss of THIN TYPE elements (thin vertical on N and other letters can disappear at smaller sizes). Mixed case is more legible.



Inking:

An embossed image can have the raised portion inked with a flat inking tool. This makes an image embossed on paper easier to read when photo copied.



Alternatives:

It may be better rather than making an embosser to have some seals pre-embossed at the factory. They have 3 colors of foil and 3 weights of foil available. We have over 170 sizes and shapes of foil seals. They can have no background ink or any of our 16 stock ink colors in the lowlands. Up to 4 colors of ink can be used. See the pdf on Custom foil seals.